

Species Highlight: Elfin Skimmer (*Nannothemis bella*)



Global Rarity Rank: **G4 – Apparently Globally Secure**

State Rarity Rank: **S1 – Critically imperiled in VA**

Legal Status: **no legal status**

The Elfin skimmer is Virginia's smallest dragonfly, measuring from just 0.7 - .08 inches (18 – 20 mm). The male, shown here, is powdery blue while the female is black with yellow rings around the abdomen with amber wing bases. At rest the wings are often held forward. They lay their eggs while flying in tandem.

The Elfin Skimmers live in and around boggy ponds in Caroline and Northumberland counties and are active during late May through July in Virginia. (2016)

Literature Cited:

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Division of Natural Heritage and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. 2013. Atlas of Rare Butterflies, Skippers, Moths, Dragonflies, and Damselflies of Virginia. Accessed at www.vararespecies.org on July 25, 2016.